

## **Webinar, organized by Department of Zoology**

The Zoological Society of Assam unit of D.K.College and IQAC of D.K.college, Mirza have organized a National Webinar on 18.07.20 in collaboration with Zoological Society of Assam, Guwahati, Assam. The topic of the Webinar was, “Grassland Ecosystem – its significance, conservation and management.” More than 325 participants from different parts of India, Malaysia and Philippines took part in the Webinar. The speaker of the National Webinar was an eminent scientist of Aaranyak, Dr. Bibhuti Prasad Lahkar. Dr. Lahkar won the IUCN World Heritage Hero Award in 2016 for his outstanding contribution towards conservation of Manas World Heritage Site. Lahkar is a member of IUCN SSC Asian Elephant Specialist Group. He is also an expert Member of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt of India. Dr. Lahkar stretched the need for conservation of grassland, which is the habitat for large varieties of indigenous species viz. greater one horn rhino, pigmy hog, hispid hare, Bengal florican, water Buffalo etc. At present large scale shrinkage of grassland due to human settlement, agriculture, livestock grazing, unsystematic fire etc. is great cause of concern for the ecologists and right thinking people of the country. All round efforts has to be made by the Government to make conservation a people’s movement to save the degraded grasslands.

Dr. Deepalee Das, Associate Professor and HOD of Department of Zoology, D.K.College, Mirza was the coordinator of this National Webinar. Dr. (Mrs) Das started the session with a short introduction and offered Vote of Thanks at the end of the session. The Webinar was inaugurated with a welcome address by Dr. Nabajyoti Das, Chief patron of the Webinar cum Principal, D.K.College, Mirza. Mr. Priyabrata Lahkar, President, ZSA delivered his lecture as Chief Guest and Prof Jogen Chandra Kalita, General Secretary, ZSA spoke a few words on Zoological Society of Assam. Dr. Arunabh Chakraborty, Assistant Professor, Civil Engineering, Tezpur Central University was the technical coordinator. Ms. Anasuya Goswami, lecturer, has anchored the Webinar.